Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 425

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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CONFIDENTIAL BERLIN 0182

DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR USIA/IWE AND IBS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETEL, ITU, WB, GW, US

SUBJECT: PREPARATION FOR ITU LF/MF BROADCASTING CONFERENCE

REF:

A. USBERLIN 0069

B. BERLIN 1669

C. USIA 27477

SUMMARY: MISSION ENDORESES RIAS POSITION IN REFTEL A) THAT RIAS COULD ACCEPT REDUCTION TO ONE MF CHANNEL (989) PROVIDED CHANNEL PROTECTED AGAINST JAMMING. WE WISH TO DRAW ATTENTION AGAIN TO PROBLEMS ARISING FROM SPECIAL STATUS OF BERLIN, AND RAISE DESIRABILITY OF FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH BRITISH AND FRENCH. END SUMMARY.

1. IN INTERNAL DISCUSSION, MISSION HAS FULLY ENDORSED RIAS POSITION EXPRESSED REFTEL A) THAT WE COULD IF NECESSARY ACCEPT REDUCTION OF RIAS MF BROADCASTING TO SINGLE989 CHANNEL, PROVIDED WE GET UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS CHANNEL WOULD NOT BE JAMMED. WE ASSUME THAT IT MAY NOT BE CONFIDENTIAL

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PRACTICAL TO ATTEMPT TO SOLVE POLITICAL PROBLEM OF

JAMMING AT FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE ON FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION, AND WE SUGGEST CONSIDERING OTHER TALKS, POSSIBLY BILATERAL TALKS WITH GDR ON THIS PROBLEM. HOWEVER WE PROCEED, WE BELIEVE WE MUST INFORM FRG THAT IF WE SETTLE FOR SINGLE 989 RIAS FREQUENCY, WE MUST RESERVE RIGHT TO RESUME BROADCASTING ON PREVIOUS FREQUENCIES IF GDR SHOULD DECIDE TO CONTINUE TO JAM 989, PERHAPS CONCENTRATING ALL ITS JAMMERS ON THAT ONE FREQUENCY.

- 2. WHILE AS NOTED BELOW, POSITION ON RETENTION OF NON-US STATIONS IN BERLIN BEST TAKEN BY ALLIES AS A GROUP, AS UNILATERAL POSITION WE SEE NO COMPELLING NEED TO SEEK RETENTION OF MORE THAN ONE SFB MY FREQUENCY. OUR POSITION ON AFN MF FREQUENCY REMAINS AS STATED REFTEL B), AND BBC FEQUENCY REQUIREMENT WILL ALSO HAVE TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.
- 3. AS DEPARTMENT AND INTERAGENCY REVIEW GROUP APPROACH DECISION ON POSITION TO TAKE WITH FRG AT MARCH 5 MEETING IN BONN, MISSION WOULD LIKE AGAIN TO EMPHASIZE SPECIAL FACTORS IN BERLIN FREOUENCY SITUATION. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, PROTECTING POWERS HAVE RESERVED TO THEMSELVES ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALLOCATION OF RADIO FREQUENCIES IN BERLIN (BK/L(57)30 OF AUGUST 28, 1957 AS CONFIRMED BY BK/L(68)12 OF MAY 27, 1968.) EXTENSION OF ITU CONVENTION TO BERLIN AND REPRESENTATION OF BERLIN'S INTERESTS IN ITU BY FRG ARE GOVERNED BY THIS RESERVATION, IF THE ITU CONFERENCE REACHES AGREEMENT ON REDUCTION AND REDISTRIBUTION OF LF/MF FREQUENCIES, ALLIED KOMMANDATURA WILL EVENTUALLY HAVE TO ACCEPT OR REJECT FOR WEST BERLIN THE RESULTS OF THE CONFERENCE, INCLUDING THEIR EFFECT UPON WEST BERLIN'S CURRENT LF/ MF FREQUENCEIS (3 RIAS, 1 AFN, 2 SENDER FREIES BERLIN, 1 BBC).
- 4. IN LIGHT OF POSSIBLE FUTURE REQUIREMENT FOR ALLIED DECISION ON REDISTRIBUTION OF BERLIN FREQUENCEIS, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER ADVISABILITY OF GOING BEYOND EARLIER QUADRIPARTITE CONSULTATIONS IN BONN AND SEEKING TRIPARTITE DISCUSSIONS AT BERLIN LEVEL AIMED AT CONFIDENTIAL

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REACHING AGREEMENT ONA MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE ARRAY OF BERLIN FREQUENCIES PRIOR TO MARCH 5 MEETING. WE NOTE BUNDESPOST-SUGGESTED AGENDA FOR MARCH 5 MEETING INCLUDES TOPIC "SPECIAL QUESTIONS CONCERNING BERLIN". WHILE TIME IS SHORT, BELIEVE IT WORTH THE EFFORT TO TRY TO GET TRIPARTITE POSITION BY MARCH 5. MISSION THINKS KOMMANDATURA COULD BE USEFUL FORUM FOR SUCH TALKS AND WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON RAISING ISSUE WITH BRITISH AND FRENCH AS SOON AS

DEPARTMENT REACHES DECISION ON U.S. FREQUENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR BERLIN. GEORGE
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